

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 4-6, 8, and 9 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1-2, 4-6, 8, and 9 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer and new claims 26-39 are added.

Objections to the Specification

The specification was objected to as failing to provide antecedent basis for certain terms in claim 5. In that claim 5 has been cancelled and the specified terms are no longer used in the claims, Applicant respectfully submits that the objection is moot and requests that it be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, and 9 were rejected as obvious over Bus '747 in view of Ducharme '064. Claim 5 was rejected as obvious over Bus '747 in view of Ducharme '064 and in further view of Design Choice. Claim 5 was also rejected as obvious over Bus '747 in view of Ducharme '064 and in further view of Pfister '262. Applicant respectfully traverses all these rejections at least in that the Office has not stated any motivation to combine the references in the manner stated.

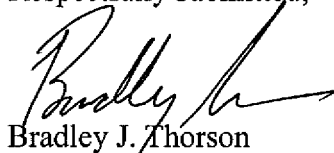
Nevertheless, without any disclaimer or waiver of subject matter being intended thereby, Applicant has cancelled claims 1-2, 4-6, 8, and 9 thereby mooted the rejections thereof. In their place, Applicant now presents new claims reciting the novel and unobvious aspect of a locking body with an engagement member engagable in the slot of the host structure at any point along the length of the host structure. This feature, described in the instant specification at least at paragraph 0025 of the published application, enables easier and more rapid assembly of a system according to an embodiment of the invention. The system of Ducharme '064, for example, requires the head (18) of the connector member (15) to be engaged in the slot (14) of the bar (10)

at the end of the bar (10) and subsequently slid along the slot (14) to the desired position. As a consequence, the assembly of a Ducharme '064 system is necessarily limited to sequences wherein all connector members are engaged with the bar before any structure is attached that would block access to the ends of the bar. In contrast, the system of the claimed invention does not require the engagement member to be engaged only at the end of the host structure but instead enables the engagement member to be inserted anywhere along the length of the slot in the host structure. As a result, more flexible assembly sequences are possible wherein ends of the host structure are attached to other structures before the locking members for cross supports are engaged. In that none of the cited references teach or suggest at least this aspect of the invention, Applicant respectfully submits the claimed invention cannot be anticipated or rendered obvious thereby.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



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